

## Gunflint Trail Historical Society

### Membership Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Barb Bottger at 1:35 pm in the Schaap Mid-trail Community center. There were 37 members in attendance.

Electronically filed minutes of the September 12, 2016 meeting were approved on a MM by Peter Leuty; Sec. by Larry Wooding...motion passed with all ayes.

In the absence of Treasurer Bud Darling, Secretary Smith gave the financial report showing a checking/savings account balance of \$5750.92; a money market balance of \$104,029.40; an endowment balance of \$138,512.96 and inventory assets of \$13,938.50 the report was accepted on a MM by Fran Smith; Sec. by Ina Huggenvik...motion passed with all ayes.

Museum Manager Bonnie Schudy gave a brief Chik-Wauk/Nature center report on membership renewal mailings, opening days happening and upcoming programming offerings.

From the Nature center, Trustee Don Wendel talked about the development of Natures' Notebook [a program of Phenology (what's going on in the woods) where people can be trained in specific natural observations and the entering such findings into a national data base. Don introduced Peter Swan, an environmental education intern who will be training Chik-Wauk staff and others in a session to be held June 13, 9:00 am at the CW site.

Trustee Bill Douglas gave a brief grounds report sighting progress on the new signage being constructed at the Trail/Moose Pond Road intersection. Stone foundation/support structure work is nearing completion while the wooden portion is in progress with Dave and Nancy Seaton.

Trustee Judy Edlund gave a report on a very successful Shrimp Boil which was held on the day before, June 11. Thanking all who worked to make it happen, she indicated the dinner raised \$2223.00 and the partnering bake sale netted \$550.00 for a total of \$2753.00. The next big special event will be the July 2<sup>nd</sup>, official grand open house for the Ham Lake Fire Exhibit in the Museum. The tenth anniversary of the tragedy will be recognized with a tour of the fire exhibit, stories to be exchanged, Forest Service fire experts to answer question and treats on the Nature center patio. All are invited!

Trustee Bruce Kerfoot gave an update about on-going capital campaign fundraising, indicating the push for funding the balance of our facility projects is continuing with both donations still being needed and the exploration of granting opportunities where available.

Trustee Dave Tuttle and project coordinator of the Watercraft Exhibit Building (WEB) gave an update indicating a hope to have all paper work approved/completed with the County, the FS and SHPO so erection of the building can commence this fall.

Meanwhile, Bob Baker Sr. and project coordinator for the (resort cabin) Interpretive Center (IC) gave a similar update regarding receipt of final approvals to proceed from the same agencies. And also mentioned was the need to sell intended IC logs not meeting architectural criteria of SHPO.

Pres. Bottger then recognized Trustees Bill Douglas and Sue McCloughan for their service to the Society as their terms expire. Then introduced new BoT nominees John Hanson and Mona Hanson (not related) to fill the vacant positions, asking for other nominations from the floor. Hearing none, a request was called for a motion to accept the two nominees. MM by Phyllis Sherman; Sec. by Alice Weck to approve the new BoT members...motion passed with all eyes.

Society business being completed, the days' program titled "Original Pioneers of the Gunflint Trail" was presented by Bill Douglas. As he shared historical information on property acquisitions/sales by legendary landowners Russell and Eve Blankenberg, contributing stories were shared by Bruce Kerfoot, Sue Kerfoot and Cheryl Daily. Truly amazing was the amount of land owned throughout the territory and how the Blankenbergs' did business over the years. Thanks to Bill and all!

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm to treats, coffee and conversation. Thanks to all the treat providers! Anyone who is willing to provide goodies for the next gathering should give Judy Edlund a call at 388-4400.

Next meeting of the GTHS will be Monday July 10, 1:30 pm at the Seagull Lake Community Center. It will be our annual memorial tribute to friends and neighbors who have passed from our midst over the past year.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary,

Fred Smith

## Gunflint Trail Historical Society

### Membership Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Barb Bottger at 1:30 pm in the Seagull lake Community Center. There were 27 members in attendance.

Electronically filed minutes of the June 12, 2017 meeting were approved on a MM by Arden Byers; Sec. by Judy Edlund...motion passed with all ayes.

The financial report was given by Treasurer Bud Darling. The report showed a checking/savings account balance of \$11,761.46; a money market balance of \$104,050.77; an endowment balance of \$139,090.12; and inventory assets of \$15,839.73. The report was accepted on a MM by Bruce Kerfoot; Sec. by Doris Durey...motion passed with all ayes.

President Bottger presented the new GTHS mission statement reflecting on how changes/growth of the Society since its inception have resulted in broader scope of what the GTHS is all about. **New Mission...The Gunflint Trail Historical Society builds community by connecting people to the Gunflint Trail region by sharing its natural and cultural history.** She further explained how the original Society mission statement has become more purposeful as a statement of purpose. **Statement of Purpose...The purpose of the Gunflint Trail Historical Society is to preserve the history of the Gunflint Trail and its early settlers for residents, guests, travelers and future generations.**

Museum Manager Schudy gave a brief update on facility goings-on since the last meeting. She reported an up-tick in Museum attendance to date of 1455 visitors since opening day on May 27. As a side note on visitor attendance she indicated 106 people attended the grand opening of the new Temporary Exhibit on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. A plea was made as to the continuing need for volunteers to help out on various days at the Nature Center, please call if you can help. Lastly an update was given on upcoming Nature Center programs on Sundays listing "Wolves at Our Door" on July 16; "Gunflint & Lake Superior Railroad" on July 23; and "Spiders of the North Woods" On July 30. All programs run from 2 until 3:00 pm.

Trustee Kerfoot then gave a report of the new Trail signage which he and Bill Douglas have been working on since early spring. He reflected donations had been received to cover the materials costs while labor had been that of love. He went on to report confirmation from SHPO that will allow for moving forward with the Watercraft Exhibit Building and the Interpretive Cabin. With only a few more hoops to jump through, the plan is begin construction this fall.

Discussion shifted to exhibits for the two anticipated facilities with Pres. Bottger and Kerfoot addressing the need to initiate a fund drive to help purchase pertinent exhibit items. These might be determined to be of historical significance but not available from area donors. Documentation will be forthcoming seeking financial assistance from any member wishing to contribute, with a minimum goal of \$5000.

Trustee Edlund gave a brief report on the July 2<sup>nd</sup> open house thanking many folks that helped out with the event. Then reminded members of the Pie & Ice cream Social on Sunday September 3<sup>rd</sup> asking them to mark their calendars and contribute one of their pastry delights. The event will run from noon til 4:00 that day on the Nature Center patio.

Society business being concluded, the afternoon program was presented by Barb Bottger and Mona Hanson. The program feature was a memorial remembrance of our Gunflint Community friends and neighbors who have passed from our midst in the last year.

Barb & Mona shared beautiful memories of: Archie Kirk; John Baumann; Drew Schmid; Jan Sirois; Jan Wright; Betty French; Don Lease; Rhoda Serrin; Jean Smith; Warren Anderson; Phyllis Noyce; Mary Katherine (Kate) Lammers-Blank; Donna Preus; and Ken Rusk.

Meeting was adjourned to conversation, coffee and treats furnished by Fran Smith and Sue Kerfoot. The next gathering will be at the Schaap (mid-Trail) Center on Monday, August 14 @ 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary, Fred Smith

## Gunflint Trail Historical Society

### Membership Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Barb Bottger at 1:30 pm in the Schaaap Community Center. There were 35 members in attendance.

Electronically filed minutes of the July 10, 2017 meeting were approved on MM by Phyllis Sherman; Sec. by Fran Smith...motion passed with all ayes.

The financial report was presented by Sec. Smith in the absence of Treasurer Darling. The report showed a checking/savings account balance of \$16,974.99; a money market balance of \$104,072.87; an endowment balance of \$140,537.81; and inventory assets of \$22,267 69. The report was accepted on a MM by Ann Carlson; Sec. by Carol Byers...motion passed with all ayes.

Museum Manager Schudy presented an update on Society/Chik-Wauk goings-on since the last meeting. July attendance for the facility was 2083, up over last year and the best since 2013. This brings the year to date attendance to 3538. The wonderful new Trail signage could certainly be a contributing factor to this attendance surge, although hard to assess. In regard to GTHS memberships, renewals stand at about 300 to date, and she indicated a number of members still have not renewed for 2017. A second mailing of reminder letters has just been mailed. She then reviewed some upcoming events for next few weeks. Ending her report, she reflected on the joys of her job by sharing a couple experiences with recent visitors, telling of their wonderful times of days gone by at Chik-Wauk.

Following Ms. Schudy, a call was made by Sec. Smith for help at the Museum to paint green trim on the window exteriors. A suggestion was made to have another painting party with ten individuals each taking a window so the job could be done in one day. The hope was for a volunteer response to do this, so the job could be done in the latter part of September when bugs become less annoying. Anyone interested may contact him.

In another facility report, project leader, Dave Tuttle updated attendees on progress to get the Watercraft Exhibit Building (WEB) and the Interpretive Cabin underway this fall. The paper trail with the USFS, MNSHPO and Cook County (variance/permitting) is moving forward. Clearing of the sight for the WEB has been started and cabin footing locations have been established for when the final go ahead is received.

Fund raising guru, Bruce Kerfoot, reported of continuing efforts to secure funding to enable completion of our projects, sighting an e-mail blast to encourage more support. He and Manager Schudy are exploring granting opportunities with the Johnson Foundation and IRRRB. He related that a substantial donation will be forthcoming after the first of the year, but we can't stop there.

In other GTHS business, Special Events Chr., Judy Edlund, discussed the coming Pie & Ice Cream Social on Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. The event runs from noon until 4:00pm. She detailed happenings for the day in addition to the sweet treats. Then a call for pie donations was made as a sign-up sheet went around for both pastries and serving volunteers (at least 45 pies are needed). On another event note she announced the Chik-Wauk Volunteer Appreciation Reception. It will be held at the Schaap Community Center, Saturday September 16 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. More info on this event to come at the next mtg.

President Bottger closed the business meeting by announcing the next GTHS membership gathering on Monday, September 11, at 1:30 pm in the Seagull Community Center.

Those in attendance were then treated to a wonder program presented by Cheryl Hedstrom Daly. Cheryl talked and shared a great video collection of life and times growing up with her family at End of the Trail Lodge. The presentation brought back many fond memories for attendees who reside in that part of the territory. A big thanks to Cheryl and video techy, Barb Tuttle.

Program adjourned to coffee, treats (by Sue Kerfoot and Lee Zopff) and conversation at 3:00pm.

Gunflint Trail Historical Society

Membership Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Barb Bottger at 1:40 pm in the Seagull Lake Community Center. There were 20 members in attendance.

The president introduced some unfamiliar faces (new members) Chad Keeper and Diana Dean.

Electronically filed minutes of the August 14, 2017 meeting were passed around for further review and were approved on a MM by Peter Leuty; Sec. by Arden Byers...motion passed with all ayes.

The financial report was presented by Sec. Smith in the absence of Treasurer Darling. The report showed a checking/savings account balance of \$26,776.32; a money market account balance of \$121, 938.62; an endowment balance of \$142,147.75 and inventory assets of \$22,714.69. The report was accepted on a MM by Fran Smith; Sec. by Carol Byers...motion passed with all ayes.

Museum/ Nature Center manager Schudy reported on the following items: 1) Visitor attendance in August continues to be up from last year at the same time with over 2200 coming in the doors; 2) Gift shop sales also on the upswing (11%) over 2016; 3) GTHS membership renewals continue to lag with 92 still in the lapsed state (3<sup>rd</sup> and final reminder letters going out soon); 4) Increased adult opportunities in the Nature Center have been well received; 5) The last program feature in the NC will be Saturday Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Evan Larson will be the presenter on his research of early fire relationships and border people @ 2:00pm; 6) Closing for the season will occur on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Following Mgr. Schudy's report a brief CW grounds report on the following items was made by Sec. Smith: 1) Still wants to form a painting party to do Museum window frames this fall (call him if available); 2) Along with Mgr. Schudy and PP Dave Tuttle, exploration is being done to add additional parking areas where feasible (proposal will be presented to the BoT ASAP with hope for a blessing from the USFS and/or SHPO so work could be commenced before winter).

A report followed on the two building projects. The watercraft exhibit building (WEB) and the interpretive cabin (IC) journey continues with approval from SHPO is close to being complete. The site for the WEB has been cleared with on-going processing of design for the footings, building deck and construction to be done by end of the fall. The actual building erection will happen next June. The IC remains at the 60% approval level with SHPO. Final submittal of windows, doors and roof specs are to be released soon from the USFS for final SHPO inspection/approval.

Trustee/fund raiser Kerfoot updated Capital Campaign progress. He expressed elation at a new pledge of 20K on top of the 2018 pledge of 35K mentioned last month. Word on granting apps with IRRRB and the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation are still in the pending stage, with hope for confirmation soon.

Trustee/ Special projects coordinator Edlund reported on the fantastic Pie & Ice Cream Social (Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>). She expressed gratitude to all (50 volunteers) who had played a role in the events' success, and presented some statistics: 1) 40 pies from 25 bakers were donated; 2) 3 tubs of ice cream were donated (by Gunflint lodge); 3) over 350 people attended; 4) \$1950 was raised at the P & IC table; 5) Gift shop sales totaled over \$2000 (via Schudy); and 6) the North Shore Community Swing Band was a big hit.

Judy further gave a heads -up on the GTHS Volunteer Appreciation Reception to be held at the Schaap Center (Mid-Trail) on Saturday, September 16, from 4:00 to 6:00pm, and invited all who had given freely of their time over the past season to please come.

The business meeting was adjourned to the program session of the afternoon. Dan Baumann of Golden Eagle Lodge was the featured speaker. He gave a great talk on the life and times of his family at Golden Eagle. In addition, he reflected on some historical perspectives of the first Gunflint Trail Ambulance Service which has, over the years, evolved into a superb volunteer fire and rescue operation, thanks to many dedicated Trail residents. Thanks to Dan!

Meeting was adjourned to treats and conversation at 3:40.